

## **FROME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1905.**

**GENTLEMEN.—**

I beg to submit the following Report on the Public Health of the Frome Rural District for the year ending December 31st, 1905.

I append to this Report Five Tabulated Statements as required by the Local Government Board, and I am sending Copies of the Report and the Tables to the Local Government Board and the Somerset County Council.

The VITAL STATISTICS of the District for this year cannot very well be compared with those of the previous ten years, as this is only the fourth complete year in which the area and population have not been affected by the absorption into the Frome Urban District of a certain portion of the Selwood Parish.

From the Tables enclosed, the following facts appear:—

AREA OF DISTRICT—51,448 Acres.

**POPULATION—11,118.**

**NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES—2650.**

### AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE—4·2.

## OCCUPATION—Agriculture and Coal Mining.

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
BIRTH RATE per 1000 living...	22·5	20	20·5	22·1
DEATH RATE	" "	10	11·4	13
ZYMOTIC RATE	" "	·3	·3	·3
INFANT MORTALITY per 1000 births	72	63	81	65

The above Statistics are based upon the population shown in the last census, and I know of no exceptional circumstances that would materially alter the population in any part of the District.

BIRTHS.—The total number of Births is 244: Males 113; Females 131; of these 18 died under 1 year of age.

DEATHS.—The total number of Deaths registered during the year was 110; as compared with an average of 136 for the previous three years. The Death Rate is 10 per 1000 living.

The CAUSES OF DEATH at all ages were as follows:—

The AGES at which DEATH occurred were as follows:-

The INFANT MORTALITY is again below the average; 18 infants having died under the age of 1 year, making the Infant Mortality rate 72 per 1000 births. The causes of these 18 early deaths were as follows:—



The INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT has been in force in the District since 1890, and works well, and is of great value in giving immediate information of Infectious Disease, and thus enabling steps to be taken to check the spread of the same; and the record of cases serves as an index of the sanitary condition of the various localities. During the past year the District has enjoyed a remarkable immunity from notifiable Infectious Diseases, only 9 cases having been notified throughout the whole District, viz. :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
									9

The above cases were distributed as follows :—

Diphtheria :—2 cases in Selwood in February.  
1 case in Norton St. Philip in August.  
1 case in Selwood in September.

Erysipelas :—1 case in Feltham in March.  
1 case in Nunney in September.  
1 case in Woolverton in November.

Scarlet Fever :—1 case in Lullington in March.

Enteric Fever :—1 case at Babington in September.

The case of Enteric Fever at Babington proved fatal. There was no sort of epidemic anywhere in the District. The District has for the past three months been entirely free from notifiable Infectious Disease. In every case where an Infectious Disease has been notified, I have without delay, visited the house and made all possible arrangements for the home isolation of the case; I also send to the occupier of the house, a printed notice calling attention to the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, and also a printed form of instructions for home isolation. I also send a printed notice to the Inspector who provides disinfectants, and visits the house from time to time to see that my instructions to the occupier are properly carried out. A notice is also sent (if necessary) to the Head Teacher of the local School, warning him not to admit children to School from the infected house; by these means we endeavour to stop the spread of infection, without an Isolation Hospital, and we do so with considerable success. At the termination of the illness, the Inspector fumigates and disinfects the premises, and I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficient way in which this is done.

During the year 9 Schools have had to be closed in consequence of epidemic disease, viz. :—

Marston School—19 days in January, for Whooping Cough.  
Coleford Church School—31 days in January and February, for Whooping Cough.  
Coleford Wesleyan School—31 days in January and February, for Whooping Cough.  
Kilmersdon School—29 days in May and June, for Measles.  
Mells School—18 days in June, for Measles.  
Vobster School—32 days in June and July, for Measles.  
Coleford Church School—16 days in July, for Measles.  
Coleford Wesleyan School—16 days in July, for Measles.  
Woodlands School—17 days in November, for Measles.

WATER SUPPLY.—The District is exceptionally well supplied with Water. Most of the Villages have public Water Supplies of a most satisfactory kind.

A constant look out is kept on all Wells, and during the year I have analyzed 42 samples of Water; wherever my analysis have proved the Water to be polluted, steps have been at once taken to have the Wells cleaned out, and in one case an order to close a Well was obtained from the Magistrates.

In June I had an opportunity to analyse a sample of the Nunney Water Supply, and found the same a very good Water, free from pollution, and of excellent quality for domestic and dietetic use.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE WORKS.—During the past year the Nunney Main Sewer has been extended to Primrose Hill. The Road Drainage Scheme is still under discussion; and meanwhile some experimental Filter Tanks have been erected, and have so far, proved very satisfactory. The Main Sewer at Norton St. Philip has been relaid in the High Street.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—There is none in the District. Home isolation of infectious cases is always arranged with as little delay as possible, and disinfectants are freely supplied by the Council, through their Inspectors.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—There are 61 Factories and Workshops in the District, viz.: 32 Bakehouses; 9 Laundries; and 20 Workshops. 142 visits have been paid to these; only three minor defects were found, and these were all promptly remedied by the owners without being referred to His Majesty's Inspector. There were no prosecutions under the Act.

INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.—There are two, each with a Sub-District. Each furnishes a Report.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—The House to house Inspections continue to be made. The Dwellings of the Working Classes are as a rule in good sanitary condition, and where any insanitary defect is discovered, it is generally quickly set right by the owners, on attention being called by the Inspector.

In conclusion, I have to express my thanks to the Council and their Officers for the courtesy and the support they have extended to me in my work.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. DALBY,

Medical Officer of Health.

FROME

# Rural District Council.

## Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1905.

January 28th, 1906.

FROME:

H. DYKE, PRINTER, CATHERINE STREET.